

# ROK STEADY

2016



Meet the New CG

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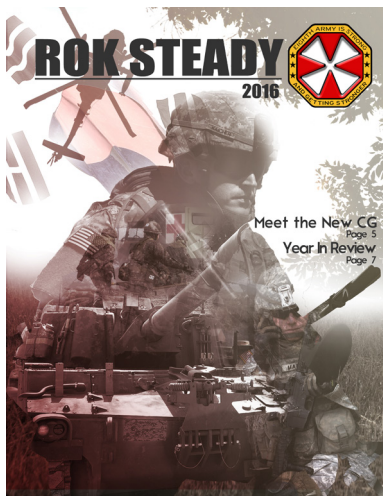


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# THOMAS S. VANDAL

## FOREWORD FROM THE EIGHTH ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL

Pacific Victors,

Welcome to the 2016 ROK Steady Magazine.

This issue highlights just a few of the initiatives and events that made the past year great for Eighth Army and our subordinate formations across the peninsula.

The 42,000 Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members who make up this dynamic team today represent a key strategic alliance for the U.S.

We bear a monumental responsibility as the largest and most visible American presence assigned to U.S. Forces Korea and the Combined Forces Command.

Our legacy is forged on battlefields where brutal combat and difficult conditions claimed the lives of nearly 37,000 of our predecessors during the Korean War.

Over the 63 years since Armistice began, we have never left.

Eighth Army Soldiers throughout the decades built upon that proud legacy in the shadows of those battlefields while the scars of a bloody civil war have healed at a remarkable rate.

Today, we carry on this legacy.

Our Alliance has never been stronger because of the dedication and selfless service of those who now shoulder the responsibility of those who came before.

As we reflect on the most recent accomplishments of the committed leaders and Soldiers highlighted on the pages of this issue of ROK Steady, let's also be mindful of the work that still lies ahead. Together, we will build upon these accomplishments in the coming year.

Our combined formations, modeled in the thriving 2nd Infantry Division ROK-U.S. Combined Division, will continue to expand and evolve.

We will cooperatively stand strong in the face of North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

We will remain fit and disciplined while serving in the spotlight of an international community.

As the new commander, I join this team ready to "Fight Tonight" in 2016.

I challenge all of you to do the same.

Pacific Victors! Katchi Kapshida!



**"...our Alliance has never been stronger because of the dedication and selfless service of our Service Members who now shoulder the responsibility of those who came before"**



# RICHARD E. MERRITT

## FOREWORD FROM THE EIGHTH ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Pacific Victors,

It has been my honor getting acquainted with the mission and Soldiers of the Pacific Victor team since I first arrived here in June 2015.

The mission of Eighth Army hasn't changed much over the past 65 years. Along with our Korean partners, we stand as a powerful deterrent against North Korean aggression in one of the strongest Alliances in the world.

While some may become complacent serving in this thriving and beautiful country, we must remember our mission is very real.

During the most recent Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, as North and South Korea went toe-to-toe in a border standoff, we witnessed just how quickly war could develop.

We brought back some valuable lessons from UFG. The most important takeaway from those few tense days was this: We must continue to refine the way we train and prepare for battle.

We have an evolving plan in place for dealing with conflicts, but if more than 30 years of service has taught me anything, it's that we must be prepared to fight the enemy, not the plan. We must remain flexible and adapt to changing conditions at the speed of war.

During the next year, my challenge to Eighth Army Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers is to instill a mindset of readiness as a way of life.

That means showing up each day, ready to train. It means bringing all of our kit, combat-ready, to exercises as we must train the way we fight.

It means being disciplined, fit and professional Soldiers in all that we do both on and off duty. It means taking ownership and living up to of the phrase, "Ready to Fight Tonight!"

Thank you for your commitment to service in this Alliance. I am excited for 2016 and all the challenges and opportunities it will undoubtedly bring. Let's stay flexible and ROK-US READY to meet those challenges together.

Katchi Kapshida!



**"During the most recent Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, as North and South Korea went toe-to-toe in a border standoff, we witnessed just how quickly war could develop. "**



# New CG outlines

By Tim Oberle

*Eighth Army Public Affairs*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - Defending the 148 mile border that separates North Korea and South Korea is a daunting task and readiness is always at a premium. So when Lt. Gen. Thomas Vandal assumed command of Eighth Army earlier this year he arrived locked and loaded with a clear set of priorities to avoid a potential dip in readiness during the transition.

From the time he served as a battalion commander at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Vandal has relied on the same four principles as the driving force behind his command philosophy. Throughout his career these priorities have evolved slightly, but readiness, teamwork, leadership and discipline remain at the core.

“First and foremost is readiness,” Vandal stressed. “Being ready to fight tonight is a way of life. That’s why we exist, that’s the whole purpose of why we are here on the peninsula. If what you are doing does not have an impact on your readiness then you probably (shouldn’t) be doing it.”

The second priority under his command philosophy

centers on teamwork. For Vandal, teamwork has and always will be the hallmark of a successful organization.

“This means building your team, being a part of a team, and ensuring that the Alliance is part of your team,” he explained. “Teamwork is a fundamental component of who we are as professionals. A big part of teamwork is you have to trust each other every day. If we as leaders are not earning (our subordinates’) trust...within our sections, squads, and platoons then you start to (see) a breakdown of the cohesion in our organization. We can’t afford that.”

As members of the profession of arms, leadership is at the core of everything we do. The leaders we help develop today will be leading the Army and our Nation down the road. To prepare them for that challenge, Vandal urges front-line supervisors to counsel their subordinates and always do the harder right.

“I challenge you all to mentor, counsel and develop your subordinates,” he said. “For noncommissioned officers (this) is even more important because...those young privates will become the command sergeants major twenty years from now leading our Army and

## CG’s priorities at a glance



### Readiness

*Understand our SOPs and OPLANs*

*Fit to fight: physical/mental/moral*

*Ready and Resilient servicemembers and families*

*Focus on fundamentals in training*



### Teamwork

*Strengthen the Alliance*

*Build your team/support the bigger team*

*Earn your teammate’s trust every day*

*It’s about the alliance/ROK partnership*



# priorities

our Nation.”

Vandal’s fourth priority, discipline, has served as a staple of military formations since the beginning of time. As ambassadors of our Nation here on the Korean Peninsula, the impact that stems from a lack of discipline can be amplified greatly.

“I look at our nation and our society and we lack discipline,” he said. “That erosion has been significant over the last ten years in particular. When you look at blotter reports you see a lot of mid-grades and even some seniors not demonstrating the discipline that we expect from them as Soldiers.”

“Here in South Korea a lack of discipline not only impacts the individual, but it impacts the unit, our country, and our Alliance. We see the strategic impact of the undisciplined (Soldier) all of the time. Where you have that one (person) who commits a criminal act that has strategic implications on the Alliance.”

To correct the problem Vandal encourages leaders and Soldiers to place an emphasis on building relationships and representing the best our Nation has to offer both on and off duty.

“Relationships are why we are here,” he continued.

“(I) have been stationed around the globe over my military career and can personally attest that there isn’t a more generous culture or a stronger Alliance than that between our two nations. As stewards of our enduring legacy we have to continue to cultivate and develop (that) relationship. All too often my suspicion is we look at maintaining the Alliance as something we do at the senior levels. That is not true. We have to instill that in our young troops so they understand that they (too) have a significant role in (strengthening) the Alliance.”

At the heart of his command philosophy, Vandal believes a solid foundation is critical to the success of both the individual and the collective.

“I ask that you focus on the fundamentals,” he said. “We must be able to “block and tackle” at the squad, platoon, and company level. It does us no good to have the best staff in the world if at the end of the day we can’t execute. These are all pretty simple and there is nothing you haven’t heard before. From its establishment, Eighth Army’s mission has been to protect and defend freedom and democracy. If we can do these four things (we) will continue to be the high performing unit that (we) have been in the past.”



## Leadership

*Leaders take initiative/take charge*

*Staff officers/NCOs are leaders first and foremost*

*Lead by example/lead from the front*

*Counsel and mentor subordinates - “Our Legacy”*



## Discipline

*Service values and character: LDRSHIP - 24/7*

*Profession of Arms*

*Do what is right 24/7*

*End sexual harassment/assault*



# 2ID activates ROK-U.S.



*Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division participate in the activation ceremony for the Combined ROK-U.S. Division June 3 at Camp Red Cloud, South Korea. (Photo by Pak, Chin-U)*

## **2nd Infantry Division**

*Courtesy Story*

UIJEONGBU, South Korea - The 2nd Infantry “Warrior” Division is entering a significant phase in its 100-year history. For more than 60 years, 2nd Inf. Div. Soldiers have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their Republic of Korea allies on Freedom’s Frontier keeping the peninsula secure against an aggressive and oppressive North Korean regime. The division is constantly seeking ways to further improve its readiness and strengthen the historic alliance it shares with South Korea. The 2nd Inf. Div. is establishing a new organizational paradigm for the Republic of Korea-

U.S. armies. This month, the division will enter a new phase in its enduring partnership with the Republic of Korea.

They are combining forces with the establishment of a Combined Division and are preparing to emerge as a more decisive expeditionary force with collective capabilities for a robust combined deterrence and defense posture.

Officers, noncommissioned officers and units are attached to the division, allowing interoperability between the ROK and U.S. forces as well as planning for mission requirements; thus capitalizing on the strengths of both armies.



# S. Combined Division



*Soldiers from the Combined ROK-U.S. Division train to use a MK-19 Grenade Launcher. The combined division stood up June 3, 2015 and is the first of it's kind. (Photo Courtesy 2nd Inf. Div.)*

The Combined Division is led by the U.S. 2nd Inf. Div. commander with a ROK deputy commander.

The combined division falls under Eighth Army in support of the ground component commander and is composed of the 2nd Inf. Div. structure and a brigade from the ROK Army. Brig. Gen. Yin, Sung Hwan serves as the ROK deputy commanding general and approximately 30 ROKA staff officers support the commander's core staff functions as primary and deputy staff and the deputy chief of staff. The collaboration is unprecedented and a true testament of the strength of the ROK-US Alliance, building on its already strong and historic presence and partnership.

The combined division and its headquarters is initially located in Uijeonbu at Camp Red Cloud. As part of the Land Partnership Plan, an agreement made between the U.S. and ROK governments, the combined division will move south to Pyeongtaek as facilities become available. To kick off this move, the division participated in a groundbreaking ceremony this past April for its future headquarters at Camp Humphreys. The expansion and construction is a multibillion-dollar project that includes housing, medical, educational and recreational facilities. The new headquarters, along with office and housing facilities, are scheduled to be complete by 2017.



# KATUSA program key to par

By Tim Oberle

*Eighth Army Public Affairs*

SEOUL, South Korea - In June, the U.S. and the Republic of Korea commemorated 65 years of partnership since both nations first amalgamated in June 1950 as the US-ROK Alliance to repel the invasion by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It didn't take long for the partnership to achieve success and in 1953 an Armistice was signed bringing an end to the hostilities of the Korean War.

As the Alliance continued to thrive over the last six and a half decades, various explanations have been proffered for the sustained success between two nations.

Some of the more common justifications include the deterrent effect the aggregation of forces presents, while other pundits point to the international political legitimacy a partnership with the U.S. inevitably brings with it.

The U.S. National Security

Strategy deems both rationales as plausible stating that, "Alliances are force multipliers: through multinational cooperation and coordination, the sum of our actions is always greater than if we act alone."

But if those were the only reasons behind the success of the partnership then why hasn't the alliance witnessed the same or similar strategic-level frictions that have often plagued America's multilateral coalition efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, or even those that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has faced during their almost 66-year multilateral alliance?

To find the answer one must go back to the very beginning of the partnership during the Korean War where the solution arose out of necessity when it became apparent to U.S. and ROK military leadership of a dire need for an intermediary to improve synchronization and interoperability.

During a brief meeting to discuss the status of the war, then Korean

President Lee, Syngman met with Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the result was an informal agreement to establish a program where Korean Soldiers would augment U.S. forces.

"In early August, the U.S. Army made the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army program official, absorbing approximately 30,000 to 40,000 Korean Soldiers to integrate with U.S. combat units," said Kim, Yun Sik, Professor, University of Maryland University College, Yongsan Garrison. "At first the KATUSAs were untrained and ineffective as Soldiers, however as the war stabilized the bilingual translation skills of the KATUSAs proved invaluable and their duties expanded to scouting, intelligence, guarding prisoners of war and assisting refugees through interpretation."

As the war came to a close the program was deemed such a tremendous success that the Korean government extended it beyond the Armistice and today the KATUSA



Cpl. Jung, Sung Chul, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat, 2nd Infantry Division, low crawls through an obstacle during the Warrior Friendship Week Warrior Challenge at Camp Hovey, South Korea April 15, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Schneider, 1st ABCT Public Affairs)



# Partnership between U.S., ROK

program is stronger than ever.

The program centers on relationship-building through shared learning experiences and mutual hardships.

“As American Soldiers try to (fulfill) their duties they come across many cultural difficulties and they...need a lot of assistance from Koreans,” said Chairman Yoon, Yoon Soo, CEO of the Acushnet Company and Chairman of Fila Global. “As augmentees to U.S. Soldiers, KATUSAs live in the same barracks, eat in the same mess halls and work in the same offices, so it is a really good opportunity to improve their understanding of (each other).”

Former Eighth Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Bernard Champoux echoed Yoon’s sentiments, adding that trust at all levels of the alliance is vital.

“No other country allows its citizens to serve under the leadership of a foreign military,” said Champoux. “Serving alongside our Korean partners provides the language and cultural expertise that are vital to building and maintaining trust at every level of the Alliance.”

Since the KATUSA program was established more than 450,000 South Koreans have served in the program. Throughout its history the program has served as a symbol for the mutual respect and sacrifice shared between both nations.

While the KATUSA program might not be the only reason for the sustained success of the Alliance, it has certainly played a major role in strengthening our combined interoperability and bridging the cultural differences between our two nations.



*Sgt. Albert Johnston (right) and Cpl. Il Shin Kim, both from the 501st Special Troops Battalion, 501st Sustainment Brigade, demonstrate basic lifesaving skills to U.S. and KATUSA Soldiers during Sergeant's Time Training in October 2014 on Yongsan Garrison, Republic of Korea. (Photo by Jonathan Koester.)*



# Photo Gallery...

*Exercises Ulchi Freedom Guardian, Key Resolve and Foal Eagle are some of the more well-known training opportunities Soldiers receive in Korea.*

*The following pages feature some of the best photos available from the many training exercises that take place on the peninsula.*

*Photos appearing in ROK Steady galleries are available for download on the Eighth Army FLICKR page at [www.flickr.com/photos/8tharmy](http://www.flickr.com/photos/8tharmy).*



*Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and the Third Republic of Korea Army dismount from an armored vehicle Mar. 25 during a Combined Capabilities Exercise at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Pocheon, South Korea. (Photo by Tim Oberle, Eighth Army Public Affairs)*



*A Soldier assigned to 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division familiarizes himself with the terrain in South Korea. The brigade is on rotation to Korea from Fort Hood, Texas. (Photo by 2-1 Cav Public Affairs Office)*



*Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, conduct maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, March 16 Foal Eagle. (Photo by Spc. Steven Hitchcock)*





*A Soldier assigned to the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company looks on as helicopters from 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade pass overhead during the combined ROK-U.S. exercise HOGUK, Oct. 21. (Photo by Cpl. Daniel Chung Il Kim, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs Office)*



*Medics assigned to the U.S. Eighth Army treat a simulated casualty during a training exercise with Soldiers from the Republic of Korea Army, the 65th Medical Brigade and other elements of the U.S. Eighth Army near Yangju, South Korea Feb. 26. (Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew Kosterman, Eighth Army Public Affairs)*



*Soldiers from the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company assemble an improved ribbon bridge Oct. 15 in Yeosu as part of Hoguk, a combined Republic of Korea-U.S. training exercise. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Norris, Eighth Army Public Affairs)*

**...Readiness**



# 19th ESC platoon leader earns sp

**By Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Veasley**

*19th ESC Public Affairs Office*

DAEGU, South Korea - For nearly a decade, Armed Forces Sports has been diligently trying to set up a women's rugby program. Through trial and error it seems that it is now a reality. In July 2015, the first official women's rugby team was finally assembled and 2nd Lt. Jacqueline Marks, a platoon leader with the 557th Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion assigned to the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, took the challenge with open arms and a grit like no other.

After a much anticipated wait, the applicants were sent to trial camp where they endured several tests in which 16 women were chosen from 80 applicants.

During the trial camp, Marks had to out compete five of the 16 women who were at the camp to move on in the selection process. Marks and 11 other women

made the final cut and were selected to attend and compete in the first military training camp for Women's Armed Forces Sevens Rugby in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, in August.

"The lifestyle and culture of rugby is something that I've never experienced with any other sport," said Marks. "You have to trust that your teammate is going to be there to protect you when are getting tackled. They need to be able to trust that you will be there for them. It's a beautiful sport that forces a strong bond between you and your teammates."

From a young age Marks was always involved in athletics in one way or another, whether soccer, basketball, softball, or track. Soccer was her main sport; she played soccer in high school and was the senior varsity co-captain. She continued to play soccer her freshman year at Norwich University for the women's varsity Division III college team, during this time she



*2nd Lt. Jacqueline Marks, a platoon leader with the 557th Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion assigned to the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command takes her platoon through react to contact drills at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in area one South Korea. Photos courtesy of 19th ESC.*



# ot on Armed Forces Rugby Team

became interested in rugby through her college roommate. After several months of deliberations she decided to try out for the Norwich University's women's rugby team in the spring and has never looked back.

Before pursuing the Armed Forces Rugby League, Marks played for the Norwich University Division I Women's Rugby Varsity Team for three years for both Fifteens and Sevens level rugby. Her team went on to win five national championships.

Her journey in Women's Armed Forces Rugby started when her coach, Austin Hall, initially recommended her for the opportunity to attend the first Armed Forces Rugby trial camp in Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

"This is definitely a journey that I am proud I started. Rugby is a lifestyle and a culture that I want to be a part of and pass down to future generations," she said.

Marks succeeded in making the starting line-up for the team, earning the number three jersey to compete

in the USA Rugby Elite City Sevens Tournament in Philadelphia Aug. 29-30.

"Making the starting lineup was a very exciting milestone for me. I just enjoy the game so much and I enjoy competing. Rugby is demanding and it keeps me both physically and mentally strong, which is very important as an Army Officer. I am glad I have the opportunity to lead on and off the field," she said.

"I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and hope that the program continues to grow and will hopefully become as strong as the Men's Armed Forces Sevens Rugby program in the next few years."

Marks will be on the Women's Armed Forces Rugby Team for a year and will compete in any tournaments that the team competes in. The next tournament she plans to attend will be in Las Vegas, Nev., in February 2016.



*2nd Lt. Jacqueline Marks, a platoon leader with the 557th Military Police Company, 94th Military Police Battalion assigned to the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command plays in the USA Rugby Elite City Sevens Tournament in Philadelphia August 29-30. Photos courtesy of 19th ESC.*



### 1st Signal Brigade, ROK Army practice decon

**Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk**

*1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office*

DAEGU, South Korea - Soldiers of 293rd Signal Company conducted a decontamination exercise, combined with the 50th Infantry Division of Republic of Korea Army Feb. 5.

Soldiers, leaders, and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army gathered in full chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear explosives gear to go through the process of cleansing their equipment and removing contaminants such as hazardous materials, chemical agents and radioactive substances throughout the training event.

“The training has significant importance in that U.S. Soldiers get to experience what the decontamination technique is like in the ROK Army,” said 1st Sgt. Keenda A. Batchelor, 293rd Signal Co., 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. “We would like for Soldiers to understand the importance of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training from the U.S. Army’s perspective and as well as from the ROK Army’s perspective.”

“We conduct joint exercises with the 50th Infantry Division twice a year, but in terms of CBRNE training, we conduct CBRNE-related warrior task battle drills every week during Sergeants’ Time Training,” Batchelor said. “We are a signal unit, but [there are] other things that signal Soldiers need to understand, not just about working on communications equipment. They also need to have a strong foundation in their



*A Soldier from 1st Signal Brigade, receives assistance removing gear from a member of the 50th Infantry Division, ROK Army, CBRNE team during an exercise in Daegu Feb. 5. Photo by Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk, 1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office*

warrior tasks and battle drills.”

The 293rd Signal Co., 1st Signal Brigade, worked side by side with the 50th Infantry Division through the process of decontamination, which consists of five steps including personal equipment decontamination, shower, inspection, and medication.

“I’m really proud that I’m taking part in the joint exercise between U.S. Army and ROK Army,” said Cpl. Kwon Yong Jae, CBRNE specialist with the 50th Infantry Division. “Through the decontamination exercise, we can get to know about U.S. Army decontamination equipment and how to operate them, and vice versa. As a member of the CBRNE supporting group, it is a great opportunity for me to actually contribute to the cooperation of two units, while cleansing our equipment and uniform to remove contaminants.”

After getting through the decontamination process, Pfc. Ryan E. Griffith, microwave systems operator and maintainer, 293rd Signal Co., 1st Signal Brigade, shared his thoughts about the exercise.

“Through this exercise, we can see how the decontamination equipment of the ROK Army work and compare it to ours,” Griffith said. “The exercise has its own significance in that it prevents Soldiers from the hazard of contaminants and unites two different units together. One of the benefits of this exercise is that we can learn things from the other side, and see what we could not have seen.”



*CBRNE team members from the ROK Army demonstrate decontamination procedures for 1st Signal Brigade Soldiers during a combined exercise in Daegu, South Korea, Feb. 5. Photo by Pfc. Byun, Jae Hyuk, 1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office*



# Legendary ROK Gen. turns 95

By Tim Oberle

*Eighth Army Public Affairs Office*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - As retired South Korean General Paik, Sun-Yup took the podium Nov. 24 during a celebration in honor of his 95th birthday, the conference room at the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense grew silent in reverence.

The man who led the first ROK Army Infantry Division into Pyongyang during the Korean War, worked beside some of the most distinguished leaders of the 20th Century including Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Dwight Eisenhower didn't disappoint.

Paik bypassed the traditional birthday oratory in favor of treating guests to a recollection of his experiences during the war.

"Sixty-five years ago in 1950 on the 25th of June Kim Il Sung of North Korea crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea," Paik said. "He attacked at 4 o'clock on a Sunday so (we) were unprepared. It took less than three days for Seoul to fall into enemy hands and (we) were forced to retreat back to the Naktong River. At the time, we were facing the greatest danger since our foundation and our independence was in jeopardy. We were without hope and didn't know what to do."

"On the 29th of June at 10 o'clock in the morning, General MacArthur flew in from Tokyo, landed in Suwon and then went to Yeongdongpo" Paik said. "He stood in front of the (Korean) soldiers and asked, 'Do you still have the will to fight?'"

The soldiers responded with a resounding yes.

Paik then described how the U.S. support that followed helped turn the tide of the war and helped South Korea develop into a global power.

"With U.S. support of security assurance and economic aid, South Korea was able to develop, overcome its hunger and poverty, and today has become a country that was once receiving aid...to a country that now aids foreign countries," he explained.

"Without U.S. support we would not have been able to create this nation in the present, so we should never forget the 40,000 U.S. Soldiers who died during the Korean War or the 100,000 who were injured. We



*Legendary Korean military commander General Paik, Sun-Yup, speaks to attendees Nov. 24 during a celebration for his 95th birthday at the ROK Ministry of National Defense Convention Center in Seoul, South Korea. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Oberle)*

should never forget. Our Alliance should be kept eternally, and we should never forget what the United States has done for us."

As a tribute to Paik and all that he has contributed to the ROK-U.S. Alliance during his lifetime, several U.S. and ROK military commanders in attendance presented gifts and expressed their sincere gratitude.

"On behalf of...Eighth Army...Soldiers, high performing professional civilians, and leaders it's really both a privilege and an honor to acknowledge another year of our senior commander, General Paik," said former Eighth Army Commander Lt. Gen. Bernard Champoux. "Happy birthday and on behalf of the entire group that is assembled here...we just want to thank you for your leadership and your inspiration."

As the celebration ended, Paik thanked everyone in attendance and articulated his vision for the future of the Alliance.

"I thank every one of you for being here today to celebrate my birthday together and I would like to extend my appreciation to the United States for all of (their) support," Paik continued. "I believe that if the ROK-U.S. Alliance continues to strengthen, that one day, a day will come when the...Alliance will be able to contribute greatly to world peace."

**"Without U.S. support we would not have been able to create this nation in the present"**



# Photo Gallery...Communit

*Eighth Army isn't just composed of good Soldiers. It's composed of good neighbors.*

*Whether they're donating time to a local orphanage or helping feed the needy, the Soldiers assigned to Korea are always ready to assist their Korean friends and partners.*

*The following pages contain photos of Eighth Army Soldiers doing what they can to help out around the peninsula.*



Sgt. William Reynolds (right) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 210th Field Artillery Brigade, helps mix kimchi ingredients during the annual Dongducheon Volunteer Center's annual kimchi-making event Nov. 24 at Citizen's Hall in Dongducheon, South Korea. (Photo by Sgt. Brandon Bednarek)



A Soldier assigned to 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment speaks with South Korean students of Kwonsun Middle School during a class on American culture and conversational English Sept. 23. (Courtesy Photo).



Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division clean up the Sincheon River at Dongducheon, South Korea March 19. (No Photo Credit Available).



A 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade Soldier visits Aehyang Child Care Center. Soldiers washed the windows, vacuumed the floor and organized the mini-library. (Photo by Pfc. Chung, Il Kim)



Senior leaders from Eighth Army help pick up litter near Seoul Station Nov. 25. (Photo by Sgt. Park, Gee Sung).



# Unity Service



*Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company U.S. Army Garrison, Yongsan plant trees in Seoul's Seobinggo park, April 8. (Photo by Sgt. Moon Hyungju)*



*Sgt. Scott Peckham, training Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, shows Jinsol Lee, 9, how to use his camera at Camp Casey, South Korea, Dec. 13. Soldiers from around South Korea came together to bring some holiday cheer to children from the Noah Rehabilitation Center. (Photo by Spc. Steven Hitchcock)*



*Forty Eighth Army volunteers joined Dongdaemun City and Republic of Korea/ U.S. Good Neighbor Sports association members Feb. 13 to deliver the charcoal-briquettes used for cooking and heating by low-income senior citizens. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Bell).*



# Eighth Army Unveils “Grab & Go”



*Soldiers order breakfast from the “Grab & Go” truck at Camp Coiner, U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul, Republic of Korea July 1. The food trailers spent more than a year under development and will allow food service personnel to bring the dining facility to the service member so they can quickly refuel after physical readiness training. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin P. Bell)*

**By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Bell**

*Eighth Army Public Affairs Office*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - When Eighth Army leaders were thinking of a method to help Soldiers refuel their bodies after morning physical training sessions, there were numerous issues that had to be solved.

Among those challenges was the physical distance between Yongsan Garrison’s single dining facility to the barracks that many single and unaccompanied Soldiers occupy.

The solution was a mobile canteen that spares Soldiers the travel time while allowing them to eat from a healthy menu designed by nutritionists.

The idea came to fruition on July 1 when the first trailer opened for business on Camp Coiner, an area

located in the northernmost area of Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Korea.

“(Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux and Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Devens) wanted a way for Soldiers to quickly refuel after PRT,” said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jessica Bezanson, a food service noncommissioned officer.

Champoux and Devens are the former commander and former command sgt. maj. of Eighth Army. Bezanson is credited with coming up with the idea for the “Grab & Go” satellite feeding trailers that look much like the popular food trucks found in many U.S. cities.

While the trailer currently used by Soldiers has specially-designed graphics and is specifically crafted for its mission, the “grab and go” aspect has been in use for a few months in Korea.

Along with “to go” service windows at many dining



# ab & Go” Canteen



*Nikky Ansley, age 16, buys a Grab n Go bag for breakfast at the Grab & Go trailer outside Collier Field House, Yongsan Garrison South Korea. (Photo by Pfc. Koh, Changwo)*

## Grab & Go at a Glance

### Opening Date:

*July 1, 2015*

### Locations:

*Camp Coiner*

*Collier Field House*

### Cost Per Meal:

*Free to meal card holders*

*\$3.45 for non meal card holders*

### Hours:

*7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. weekdays*

### Available to:

*U.S. Service Members, KATUSA Soldiers, civilians authorized to be on Yongsan*

### On the menu:

*Cereal, yogurt, fruit, breakfast burritos, wraps, smoothies and other breakfast food*

facilities in Korea, Yongsan Garrison also provided meals from the rear of a delivery truck.

Food service personnel said the truck was never supposed to be a long-term solution, but instead a quick solution to help Soldiers.

“It’s taken a year for us to fully realize the commanding general’s vision, and now here we are,” said Bezanson proudly as a line of Soldiers picked up their breakfast from the shiny new food truck behind her.

The trailer is thus far supported by those who are already benefitting from its placement.

“This is great,” said a Soldier assigned to Special Operations Command – Korea, who wished to remain unnamed due to his assignment at SOCKOR. “Right after PT we can get breakfast here instead of having to shower and change then walk all the way over the hill

from Camp Coiner for breakfast, saves a lot of time.”

The mobile canteen’s look also inspires those who provide service from it.

“I like the look and design,” said Sgt. Jaris Casey, a Food Service NCO from the Yongsan DFAC who is responsible for maintaining the equipment on the truck. “This is a tremendous improvement, it allows us to do so much more with the grab and go idea; we can provide meals to Soldiers from nearly anywhere thanks to the new truck.”





# Brian Allgood trains for simu

## Courtesy Story

*65th Medical Brigade Public Affairs Office*

SEOUL, South Korea - Medical personnel from the Brian Allgood Army Community Hospital (BAACH) along with the Korean Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDCP) participated in a Highly Infectious Disease Full Scale Exercise on March 31, 2015.

The exercise provided Republic of Korea (ROK) and U.S. interagency and military participants training on responding to a simulated Ebola case.

The focus of the exercise was to improve the ROK-U.S. Alliance's ability to identify, respond and transport a simulated Ebola patient by employing a whole-of-government approach through bilateral cooperative engagements.

Although the scenario for the exercise was Ebola, the lessons learned were applicable for other emerging events with highly infectious agents.

Volunteering to serve as the suspected patient, Staff Sgt. Alfonso Bernall-Stevens, the 121st Combat Support Hospital integration platoon sergeant said, "I learned a lot about Ebola and was surprised at all the agencies that got involved in this exercise. It took a lot of effort and personnel to get one person isolated. The emergency room staff has been training up to this and all the red flags were raised when I processed through the screening room of the ER. They donned their preventative posture equipment and isolated me to minimize contact."

Senior medic and emergency room Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Staff Sgt. Kyle

**"Anyone can come in here  
We are the starting point  
have to be ready to**



# Army Community Hospital isolated ebola case

Roberts has been training up his staff to identify patients with symptoms of a highly infectious disease and on how to screen patients, isolate them and limit staff exposure.

“Whenever we get a suspected case, we contact the Korean Center for Disease Control which contacts a ROK Army hospital that has the capabilities to test and treat patients,” said Roberts.

During the exercise, Bernall-Stevens said that he had no fears with the language barrier. “The Korean medical staff and Capital Hospital immediately placed me in a negative pressure isolation room and explained the entire process to me along the way. They made me feel comfortable about the whole process.”

Interagency coordination and participation from both the ROK and U.S. was exercised during the Highly Infectious Disease Full Scale Exercise.

There was participation from KCDPC, public health centers from Yongsan-gu, Seoul, and Bundang-gu, Gyeonggi Province, ROK Armed Forces Medical Command, Korean Armed Forces Capital Hospital and U.S. Forces Korea.

“You never know what you get here at the emergency room,” said Roberts. “Anyone can come in here at any moment of time. We are the starting point of the hospital and we have to be ready to handle anything. Being prepared is our number one thing. We wanted to make sure that the people in the community feel comfortable now. After this exercise, we have proved that we can properly isolate the patient, and transport that patient to another location to receive care without exposing anyone else.”

**at any moment of time.  
t of the hospital and we  
handle anything.”**





# US, ROK Patriot crews seal g



*Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronald Brotherton, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade air defense artillery fire control officer, evaluates objectives during a combined interoperability exercise on Jungwon Air Base, South Korea, July 15. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Denby, 35th ADA Public Affairs).*

*Republic of Korea airmen from 199th Air Defense Artillery Battalion head to their command post during a combined training exercise held at Jungwon Air Base in South Korea, July 15, 2015. The 199th ADA partnered with Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment for a week-long exercise to validate Patriot missile system interoperability. (Photo by: U.S. Army Sgt. Terry Burt, 2-1 ADA Unit Public Affairs Rep)*



**Staff Sgt. Heather A. Denby**  
*35th ADA Public Affairs*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea - Air defenders, from Republic of Korea Air Force's, 199th Air Defense Artillery Battalion and U.S. Army 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, joined forces for a week-long exercise linking U.S. and ROK air defense systems on Jungwon Air Base, July 13-16.

This is the second time the two countries have conducted this type of exercise.

"The sister battalion to 2-1 ADA [Air Defense Artillery], 6th Battalion, 52nd Air and Missile Defense Regiment conducted a combined interoperability exercise last June with the ROKAF 177th Air Defense Artillery Battalion, where they were able to successfully transfer digital data between Patriot missile systems for the first time," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronald Brotherton, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade air defense artillery fire control officer.

"During this iteration, we expanded upon that concept by increasing the distance between the two systems and linking our communications equipment," Brotherton said. "We had many objectives for this exercise but the bottom line is that we set out to validate the software and hardware configurations between the U.S. and ROK Patriot systems."

During the exercise, both ADA commanders were able to combine their shared mission of defending South Korea against an air or missile threat.

"We talked about the composition



# aps in combined air defense

of our organizations and the multitude of ways that we can work together in air defense,” said Lt. Col. Tony Dedmond, 2-1 ADA commander. “We achieved every objective established prior to the exercise.”

“It was a good combined effort,” he said.

Soldiers observed ROKAF 199th ADA airmen conducting march-order emplacement, then the two units went head-to-head to see which unit could conduct the fastest missile reload drill.

“The [missile reload] concept was the same, but our equipment is slightly different,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Heaps, launcher section chief for Charlie Battery, 2-1 ADA. “It was a great opportunity to train with each other.”

“The ROKAF airmen were really impressed with our system, its efficiency and our teamwork,” he said.

Teamwork galvanized the bond between the two country’s air defenders during the exercise, Brotherton said.

“It was amazing to see our Soldiers and the ROK airmen work together,” Brotherton said.

“When the exercise began, there was an obvious uncertainty between the two,” he said. “But during the exercise, there were many challenges that required both country’s air defenders to work together in order to succeed and by the end of the day, they were giving each other high-fives and joking like old friends.”

The exercise culminated with a tactical seminar on best practices of U.S. and ROK air defense.

The 199th ADA commander said there was a perfect balance of building relationships through friendly competitions and building knowledge through shared air defense expertise.

“This exercise was a historic first,” said ROKAF Lt. Col. Jin Gi Kwon, 199th ADA commander.

“U.S. and ROK Patriot battalions exchanged digital data remotely utilizing communication relay systems.”

“This proof of principle demonstrates our ability to be interoperable in a configuration replicating how we would fight alongside our allies using the Patriot system in a contingency operation,” he said.

The ROKAF began upgrading its Patriot missile systems this month with full implementation of their equipment expected by 2020.

Brotherton said that with the upgrades and combined interoperability of Patriot missile systems, U.S. and ROK forces will be able to reduce the number of missiles fired and increase engagement accuracy of potential threats.





# Eighth Army participates in R

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Bell

*Eighth Army Public Affairs Office*

GYERYONG, South Korea- Eighth Army Soldiers and equipment, and a lot of Republic of Korea service members and equipment, were on display at the 2015 Republic of Korea Ground Forces Festival at the ROK Military Headquarters Oct. 2-6.

Nearly 100 air and ground combat vehicles along with South Korea's military history and current technology were on display, in near Smithsonian quality presentation, at the sprawling festival site held on an Army Airfield a short distance from the ROK military headquarters.

Mixed in with the Korean main battle tanks and a large number of different types of helicopters were several pieces of U.S. military equipment to include a Patriot Missile system, an Avenger Missile system, an NBC variant of a Stryker vehicle, an AH-64 Apache (Longbow) attack helicopter and even a few Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robots that spent the ma-

jority of their time chasing around giggling children.

The whirl of helicopter blades and roar of jets were nearly constant as was the sound of gunfire at a small firing range where people could fire a real rifle, albeit with blanks, at a target with the Korean military version of laser based Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System gear.

Musical performances with military marching bands and traditional Korean groups were going on constantly in the main stadium and a number of small stages spread throughout the grounds.

All the U.S. equipment was manned by young Soldiers and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army or KATUSAs.

KATUSAs helped bridge the language barrier by being there, wearing the Korean flag on their shoulder, and providing a visible representation of the ROK/ U.S. Alliance.

"I am so proud to be here representing my country and the United States," said Cpl. Mun, Hak-bong, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, who was manning a Patriot Missile System.

"Everyone asks me how it is to be a KATUSA and I always say it's great, especially on days like these." Mun added.

The small American contingent of about 50 Soldiers, to include members of the Eighth Army Band, were kept busy providing information on U.S. military equipment and being "rock-stars," posing for photos with Korean civilians, many of who had never met a U.S. Soldier.





# ROK Ground Forces Festival

“This is a great way for us to get out and see the people of Korea, and for them to see us,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Friend, an Apache pilot assigned to C Co. 4th Aerial Reconnaissance Battalion (Attack), 2nd Aviation Regiment.

“Being a pilot and being able to talk about my experiences with our South Korean partners and allied nations and the other pilots and officers about the airframe has made this a phenomenal experience,” Friend added.

ROK and U.S. Special Forces conducted several demonstrations to include a free-fall and “hostage rescue” parachuting and rappelling into the festival to the loud applause of the large crowd gathered to watch the spectacle.

“We’ve been drawing a big crowd and it’s been keeping us busy as we’ve been letting people play with the system, we’ve really been overwhelmed with the interest in us and our equipment, it’s been great, I hope I can do this again next year,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Reinheimer, an Avenger operator assigned to 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, as he stood in front of his system.

If you were wearing a U.S. Army uniform you couldn’t go anywhere without someone wanting to practice their English or have their picture taken with a U.S. Soldier.

“I’ve learned a lot about the ROK Army and its differences between the U.S. Army, for example, the ranks are a lot different,” said Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sha’vona Ellis, A Battery, 2-1 ADA.

“Everyone wants to talk to us and take pictures with us, this has been a tremendous experience!” Ellis added.



*Top: South Korean cadets get a close up look at a U.S. Bradley Fighting Vehicle at the 2015 Republic of Korea Ground Forces Festival in Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 2, 2015. Bottom: Soldiers pose for photos on their Paladin at the 2015 Ground Forces Festival Oct. 3, 2015. (Photos by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Bell)*



*Left: A young girl poses with a U.S. Soldier on top of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle at the 2015 Republic of Korea Ground Forces Festival in Gyeryong, South Korea Oct. 3, 2015. (Photo by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Bell)*



# Transformation...

This is an exciting time for Eighth Army as the ROK-U.S. Alliance moves to a future that ensures we are properly postured to continue our enduring legacy of service here in the Republic of Korea.

As the Alliance prepares for an increasingly complex operational environment, Eighth Army is at the tip of the spear for change, undergoing the largest transformation in our organization's history.

Many people are already aware of Eighth Army's ongoing efforts to relocate the majority of Eighth Army's

operations to two enduring hubs in the vicinity of the cities of Pyeongtaek and Daegu. These moves will not only improve readiness for the Alliance, they will also enhance partnerships within local communities.

In preparation for the relocation, the Army Corps of Engineers is undertaking one of the largest construction projects in its history at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek. Once transformation is complete, Eighth Army Soldiers, Civilians and Families living and working at Camp Humphreys will serve at the Army's



*This collection of aerial photos shows new facilities at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea under construction as part of the ongoing transformation, including a Department of Defense School (left) family housing (center) and the future Eighth Army headquarters (right). Eighth Army is tentatively scheduled to move into the new facilities in 2017. (U.S. Army courtesy photos)*



# ...Plans for Hum



flagship garrison community, with access to a wide array of services.

In addition to state of the art facilities, Soldiers serving in Eighth Army have an excellent opportunity to excel in the profession of arms preparing to defend against conventional and nonconventional threats through realistic combined and joint training with our ROK counterparts. Soldiers, Civilians and Families stationed in Korea serve in a modern nation, renowned for its rich cultural history and aesthetic beauty.

Conveniently located, there is also the excellent opportunity to explore and experience the rest of Asia and all the vibrant destinations it has to offer.

As the ROK-US Alliance prepares for an increasingly dynamic operational environment there is no better place to seek an assignment than Eighth Army. From Eighth Army's storied legacy of service, to maintaining the Army's first permanently-integrated combined training environment in the future, it is an exciting time to be a Pacific Victor.



# Amphreys move forward



# Annual evacuation exerc

By Tim Oberle

*Eighth Army Public Affairs*

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea - Family members, civilians, contractors and other non-emergency personnel visited noncombatant evacuation operation, or NEO, centers throughout the Korean Peninsula, Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, as part of Exercise Courageous Channel to learn more about what to expect during a real-world crisis or natural disaster.

The annual U.S. Forces Korea evacuation exercise performs the dual function of preparing community members for a potential evacuation and training military personnel to execute the massive undertaking should a situation ever call for one.

“We want to give people the opportunity to go through the site so they know what to expect and also to give our personnel and our NEO wardens a chance to train,” said Capt. Kimberly Bevins, commander of



*Family members disembark from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter Oct. 30 after a mock evacuation flight during Courageous Channel, Oct. 30, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Oberle, Eighth Army Public Affairs)*



# Exercise enhances readiness

Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, and officer in charge of tags during the exercise.

As a way to build upon their efforts each year and be better prepared in the event of a real emergency, the staff takes careful note of areas for improvement and those protocols that generate success.

“Each year we review lessons learned during the previous exercise and then apply those lessons to help

Families better understand the process,” said Maj. James Leidenberg, planner for the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, Eighth Army. “A few areas where we have improved has been to ensure that Families have their NEO packets updated, their pets registered...and all of their required paperwork filled out. The bottom line is that when a crisis hits you don’t have a lot of time to go back and do that preparation, so anything you can do before-hand will expedite the evacuation.”

In addition to readiness, safety was also a common theme throughout the week to reduce the potential of injuries occurring during the exercise or in the course of an actual evacuation.

“Safety is one of the most important factors during both an exercise and a real-world event that results in NEO,” Leidenberg said. “People need to understand the process and the flow because emotions will be high and conditions could be trying. As they better understand the process it helps to mitigate some of the safety risk.”

As part of this year’s exercise, Eighth Army held mock evacuation flights supported by the 2nd Assault Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

“We are doing actual military air flights with [UH-60] Blackhawks and using the same processes and procedures that would take place during an evacuation,” Leidenberg said. “Safety is foremost in our minds, so we try to make things here as realistic as possible.”

The five-day exercise went off without a hitch, but as one would expect the staff is never satisfied and always looking for ways to continue to improve.

“There are aspects of a real-world situation you just can’t simulate,” Leidenberg said. “But we do our best to make sure what people see when they come into the [NEO Center] is almost exactly the same as they would see in a real event. Once this year’s exercise is over we will go back and take lessons learned and continue to refine our process so that we can get everyone evacuated as safely and quickly as possible.”



*ous Channel at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan in Seoul, South*





STRONG  
AND  
GETTING  
STRONGER